



COLORADO
Department of Education
Commissioner of Education

201 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203-1799

May 24, 2016

Dear Superintendents,

Hello! I hope you are all doing well this week. I thought of you all while watching the news last night and being concerned about the recent threats made to some of your schools. I know those events are incredibly scary and the decisions related to them are not easy. The month of May is an extraordinarily busy time for you, your educators and your families, and this adds a difficult new burden on everyone. I will be thinking about you and all of your students, families and staff. If you have suggestions on how we can help in this area, please let us know.

I wanted to give you a little bit of an update to make sure you are all kept in the loop on what I know and the process for moving forward.

First, THANK YOU for all the support and well wishes that many of you have sent my way—I am proud to be here and serve you in this capacity! I want you to know that CDE is committed to listening and supporting you throughout this transition time and moving forward.

I don't have a lot of new information for you but, here is what I can tell you right now:

- I have accepted the position of interim commissioner for the immediate future. What does immediate future mean? I am committed to leading the organization during this transition time and will continue in the role at least through the summer if not longer.
- The state board will be discussing how they would like to move forward with finding a new commissioner at their June 8-9 board meeting. This board meeting is scheduled to take place in Pueblo.
- All media requests about the commissioner transition are going to the communications advisor the board engaged to help with this issue - Bill Ray at bill@wr-communications.com.
- Right now we are reevaluating a few things and thus are putting a pause on a few pending tasks, including the hiring of a new Associate Commissioner for Accountability and Assessment and Chief Communication Officer. James Bailey (the recently announced new Chief of Staff) will no longer be coming to CDE. I will be reviewing our areas of focus as well as our senior staffing needs before making big changes during this time of transition.
- Of course we are moving forward on our core work, the ESSA listening tour and all the important issues you work on day-to-day. Our focus remains on giving high quality support and service to all of you!

I will update you more, as I know more!

Thank you,



Katy Anthes, Ph.D.
Interim Commissioner

